

IN THE SPECIFICATION

1. Please amend the Title on page 1 to read as follows:

TEXT-TO-SPEECH AND IMAGE GENERATION OF MULTIMEDIA ATTACHMENTS TO
E-MAIL

2. Please amend the last paragraph on page 1, which continues on page 2, as follows:

B/ Nevertheless, transmitting messages by email limits a sender's ability to convey emotions that may be associated with a message. For example, when sending a message, senders may wish to convey that they are angry, sad, happy, etc. Because the content transmitted by email is usually in a text format, it is difficult for a sender to convey emotions along with a message. Of course, certain punctuation (such as an exclamation point) or an emoticon may aid in conveying a sender's emotion, but the value of using these symbols [are] is limited. For example, it is difficult to use symbols to convey humor, impatience, urgency, empathy, etc.

3. Please amend the last paragraph on page 5, which continues on page 6, as follows:

B/ As described more fully below, a multi-mail message may be prepared in a number of different ways. In one embodiment, an email message may be prepared by typing in a textual message at a sender's user interface device 120 that is capable of receiving such text, and associating an accompanying audio and/or video component. In another embodiment, an email message may be composed by telephone, or some other device that is capable of receiving an audio input. In one embodiment, user interface devices 120, 130 may be a computer comprising one or more central processing units (CPU), one or more data storage devices, a monitor, a

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keyboard and/or any other components that may allow a user to implement the commands of the software and hardware functions described herein. Further as Fig. 1A illustrates, a sender user interface device may be a personal digital assistant (PDA) 120-1, telephone 120-2, or any type of wireless or ~~land-line~~ land-line device that is capable of transmitting textual, graphical or audio messages, such as facsimile machines, beepers, etc. Similarly, any devices that are capable of communicating an audio and/or video message (with or without transmitting textual data) are suitable for displaying email messages to a receiving party.

4. Please amend the last paragraph on page 6, which continues on page 7, as follows:

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Senders 124 include individual(s) wishing to compose and/or send a multi-mail message to recipient(s) 134. As described above, a multi-mail message is an electronic message that has at least one multimedia component associated with the message. In one embodiment, users (senders 124 and recipients 134) register, through user interface devices 120, 130, with the service which performs the email processes as further described below. In one embodiment, the user interface device may be the user's computer or internet access device. In another embodiment, the user interface device may be a telephone, PDA, facsimile machine, etc. Senders 124 can input email message information in various ways. For instance, users may send such messages electronically by means of the ~~internet~~ Internet, ~~world-wide-web~~ World Wide Web, intranet, or some other network. This may be accomplished by inputting a message through sender device 120 which is in communication with the network. In an alternate embodiment, the sender device may be in communication with some other type of network, such

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as the public switched telephone network (PSTN). Two ways in which a sender may input such information via the PSTN for receipt by central controller 110 include (1) telephone answering services at central controller 110 that provide audio recording capabilities and, in some instances, that permit interaction between the user and the system based on touch tone or voice input provided by the user; or (2) telephoning live operators at central controller 110, to verbally provide information which is entered into the system via operator terminals.

5. Please amend the first full paragraph on page 8 as follows:

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User interface devices 120 and 130 comprise devices for allowing central controller 110 to communicate with multi-mail senders 124 and recipients 134. Communication between these user interface devices 120, 130 and the controller 110 is preferably electronic by means of the ~~internet~~ Internet and preferably includes a conventional high speed modem employing known communication protocols capable of decrypting encrypted data received from the interface user devices 120, 130.

6. Please amend the last paragraph on page 14, which continues on page 15, as follows:

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As described above, a user may wish to manipulate an image for association with a multi-mail message. Such manipulation begins at step 1111.3 of Fig.7. Image manipulation enables a user to easily change a stored image. Although a user may change a stored image in countless ways, some of the manipulation options are as follows: (1) include stock or own animation which could, for example, include a mini-movie in the background behind the talking head (step 1111.31); (2) drag an image of a face into a goofy shape, (step 1111.32); (3) enlarge eyes or

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In response to the Office Action dated July 7, 2003

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exaggerate other image features (step 1111.33); (4) provide color enhancement to an image or video (i.e., ~~technicolor~~ TechnicolorTM, grainy black and white, sepia, etc.) (step 1111.34); (5) enable image movement, such as winking (step 1111.35); (6) change component background (i.e., street scenes, circus, ships, psychedelic, subtle, stripes, antique, etc.) (step 1111.36); (7) drag other objects into image or video (step 1111.37); and (8) move or alter body parts (step 1111.38). The manipulations listed above are merely representative examples of the effects that may be applied to a multi-mail image or video components and are not meant to be an exclusive list of manipulations available. After completing the image/video manipulation (step 1111.3), the user may return to the component management menu (step 1111).
